

# AS TOLD BY SEARS

STORY OF THE AMERICAN NAVAL CAMPAIGN IN CUBAN WATERS.

Schley's Flag Lieutenant an Important Witness Yesterday in Behalf of the Rear Admiral.

AN INTERESTING NARRATIVE

COVERING ALMOST EVERY PHASE OF THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY.

Text of Schley's Report on the Memorable Battle, Which Did Not Reach the Navy Department.

NOT ADMITTED IN EVIDENCE

NUNEZ AND COOK RECALLED TO EXPLAIN FORMER TESTIMONY.

Latter Paid Tribute to Schley by Calling Him "Cool, Brave and Enthusiastic."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Only one witness was heard in detail by the Schley court of inquiry today. This was Lieutenant Commander James H. Sears, who was Admiral Schley's flag lieutenant during the Spanish war. He gave a detailed account of the entire Cuban campaign, including the brief siege of Cienfuegos, the retrograde movement of the flying squadron in grade of coast, the blockade of Santiago, the reconnaissance of the Santiago shore batteries and the bombardment of the Cristobal Colon May 31 and the battle off Santiago July 3, when Cervera's fleet was destroyed. He placed the distance out of the blockading line at Cienfuegos at from three to four miles and at Santiago from three to six miles. He expressed the opinion that in the battle of July 3 it had been the Viscaya's intention to ram the Brooklyn.

While Commander Sears was on the stand Captain Lemly asked him, but the court, after quite a prolonged consultation in retirement, decided that the question was not admissible. It held, however, that the time of service could be inquired into.

Mr. Rayner sought to secure the introduction of a brief report of the battle of July 3 which Commander Schley prepared for transmission to the secretary of the navy. It was stated that Commander Sears had taken this dispatch ashore to be called to the secretary, but that it never had reached that official. The dispatch was ruled out on the ground that as it was not received it was not an official communication. It was not read in the courtroom, but the following is a copy of it:

"The Secretary of the Navy, Washington—Spanish squadron at anchor at Santiago harbor this morning, July 3, at 9:30, and were captured or destroyed in a running fight westward of about three and one-half miles. Very few casualties in our fleet. Chief yeoman dead and one man wounded on the Brooklyn. Report of other ships not yet in. The commander-in-chief now superintending transfer of prisoners from the Cristobal Colon, which surrendered to the Brooklyn and Oregon at 11:30 p. m. About 1,000 prisoners, including the Spanish admiral. Victory complete. Details later. SCHLEY."

Captain Cook was recalled during the day, and in response to a question by Captain Lemly made an additional statement concerning the retrograde movement of the flying squadron May 26 to May 28. He also said, in answer to a question by the court, that Commander Schley during the battle of July 3 was "cool, brave and enthusiastic. I cannot imagine any conduct in battle more admirable."

When Eduardo Nunez, the Cuban pilot, was called today to correct his former testimony, he added to his statement yesterday that he had seen the Brooklyn firing on May 31, the day of the bombardment of the Cristobal Colon, but that he did not know that vessel was at that time coaling and did not participate in the engagement. He also made a correction in his former statement concerning his conversation with Commander Schley on first meeting him.

SEARS'S TESTIMONY.

Lieutenant Commander Sears followed Nunez. Mr. Rayner questioned him, saying at the beginning of the examination that he would ask him concerning the points of the precept and requesting that replies should be as concise as possible. Mr. Sears said that when the flying squadron arrived off Cienfuegos he knew nothing of a code of signals for communication with the Cuban insurgents. Questioned concerning the McCalla memorandum, he said that it had been brought to Commander Schley by the Hawk and by no other vessel to his knowledge.

Commander Sears gave a detailed account of the encounter with the British steamer Audubon, the examination on this point being as follows:

"Now coming to Cienfuegos, give us the principal incidents that took place while the fleet lay off Cienfuegos, and especially an incident with the British steamer Audubon, the coming in of the Audubon."

"The Audubon arrived under orders from Commander Schley by the Castine, and after Captain Schley's examination, but made his report to the commander. The commander sent one of the officers of the Brooklyn aboard the Audubon, and the commander directed me to go aboard the Audubon and if I could contrive some means of inducing the captain of the Audubon, an Englishman, to put himself out a little to tell us something about what was going on off Cienfuegos. The captain said of course he would be very glad to do it, as he was coming under some authority from our fleet in Jamaica. He suggested that when he came on the next day from behind the fleet to go to the shore and that he would bring him to with a shot so that anybody observing it from shore would see that he was acting under force and that anybody who could speak Spanish could find out if they pleased from the refugees he had on board."

"With what understanding did they go into the port? Was there any understanding with you?"

"That he was to come out the next day and it would be possible for us to get that information. In fact, that it would be very easy to do so."

"Did he come out the next day?"

"He did not."

The witness also stated that Commander Schley had told him that Captain McCalla had brought a code of signals for communication with the insurgents on shore near Cienfuegos.

Describing the blockade of Cienfuegos, Commander Sears said that it had been maintained from one to four miles out, and that the Dupont was stationed inside with instructions to keep close into the mouth of the harbor and maintain careful watch, reporting any suspicious incidents. The witness next gave details of the cruise from Cienfuegos to Santiago.

BLOCKADE AT SANTIAGO.

With reference to the blockade at Santiago the witness said that it had been maintained at varying distances of from three to six miles, to suit the commander-in-chief. In thick weather and at night

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# BRIGANDS DISPERSE

BUT KEEP MISS ELLEN M. STONE UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

Mountain Fastnesses Uninhabitable, and the Bandits Have Sought More Congenial Climes.

LETTERS FROM THE CAPTIVES

MISS STONE TO MR. PEET AND MME. TSILKA TO PARENTS.

Both of Opinion that Military Pursuit Would Endanger Their Lives—A Turk Brained.

SOFA, Oct. 15.—Although the time fixed by the brigands who abducted Miss Ellen M. Stone, the American missionary, for the payment of the ransom demanded expired a week ago, no one has appeared at Samakov to claim the money or to announce the fate of the captive. It is now learned that the band has dissolved, but that Miss Stone is kept under surveillance at some distance from the frontier. This is due to the snow and cold weather rendering the mountains uninhabitable. The efforts of the police to arrest Samakov, former president of the Macedonian committee, who is suspected of complicity in the

kidnaping, are still unavailing. The failure is due to the sympathy of the inhabitants and local authorities. The police here, however, have arrested certain suspects, including Paul Gendieff, brother of the well-known brigand and deputy.

The parents of Madame Tsilka, the Bulgarian teacher, who was captured by brigands with Miss Stone, have received another letter from their daughter urging the step already taken, namely, stopping the military pursuit, because the brigands threaten the prisoners with immediate death in the event of danger to themselves.

The writer says that she and Miss Stone are hidden in a subterranean retreat, and are treated courteously. She also says the only means of securing their release is to pay the ransom demanded.

Charles M. Dickinson, United States consul at Constantinople and diplomatic agent at Sofia, is quite confident that "when the Stone party was captured its members were compelled to wade a stream up to their chests, and then to be carried to the mountains. They took with me for my companion Mrs. Catherine Tsilka. The reason why they captured us is for a ransom."

"My Honored Friend—I write to inform you that on the 3d of September I was captured by a great number of armed men—some forty—say I traveled from Bankovo to Dymalova with twelve teachers and students and others. They took with me for my companion Mrs. Catherine Tsilka. The reason why they captured us is for a ransom."

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